

# **PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT**

## **36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS**

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Week Ending September 27, 2003

### **Pink Bollworm Activities**

#### **Palo Verde and Imperial Valleys:**

Native pink bollworm catches were up again this week. Imperial Valley trap catches were over 10,000 for the first time this season, whereas the Blythe/Palo Verde Valley area has exceeded this benchmark every week in September. Trap recapture data from the "Highway Lines" indicates movement of pink bollworm moths into the Imperial Valley from cotton in Mexico is still going on. The 5th in-field generation is now predicted to occur on 10/04 in Imperial Valley and 10/24 in the Palo Verde Valley. Agricultural Pest Control Specialist Jodi Brigman made a special boll collection in a field in Imperial Valley this week. A trap in a 100% Bt cotton field has yielded an inordinate number of native moths, nearly 2000, which is double the average for all the Imperial Valley traps. Arrangements have been made to send moths from this field to Dr. Robert Staten who will have them analyzed with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. This should tell us if the moths trapped in this field have the genes providing resistance to the Bt endotoxin.

#### **San Joaquin Valley:**

Twenty native pink bollworm moths were trapped this week compared with thirty-one found last week. This brings the season total to ninety-two. This slight decrease could be due to lower nighttime temperatures, which dropped below sixty degrees in much of the valley.

Sterile moth receipts were above average again this week. Releases totaled 14.6 million moths bringing the season total to 267 million. The last scheduled day of sterile release is October 4.

#### **Sacramento Valley:**

The traps are in place in the four cotton-growing counties and will be serviced and removed in three weeks.